Welfare scheme for unorganised workers

1783. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government approved a welfare scheme to give the country's organized workforce, estimated to be about 36 crore, benefits such as life and disability cover and health and old age pension;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering to introduce a legislation in this regard in the next Session of Parliament; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Unorganised Sector Workers Social Security Bill and formulation of social security scheme for unorganized workers are under active consideration and all efforts are being made to introduce the Bill during the current session of Parliament. The modalities of the scheme and coverage thereof are being examined.

Legal status of private placement agencies

1784. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3763 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 2007 and state:

(a) the legal status of the private placement agencies;

(b) whether Government are aware that many of these private placement agencies lure child labourers and young girls from poor families and virtually earn a fortune by way of deploying them in inhuman conditions; and

(c) which States have, so far, formulated regulations for functioning of these private placement agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) In order to safeguard the interests of job-seekers, Ministry of Labour and Employment have issued guidelines to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to consider regulation of the functioning of Private Placement Agencies, as per local needs.

(b) Provisions already exist under the Child Labour Act, 1986 to prohibit employment of children below the age of 14 years in the hazardous occupations and processes.

(c) As per available information, the Government of Rajasthan has issued directions for registration of private placement agencies.